

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/BR2002/000176 filed December 6, 2002**

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (new): A plasticizer composition for nitrocellulose based resins comprising: (i) at least one isobutanol ester of a fatty acid with 8 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically unsaturated, linear or branched and contains at least one epoxy group per molecule and (ii) at least one methyl ester of a fatty acid with 16 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically unsaturated, linear or branched.

Claim 13 (new): The composition according to claim 12, wherein, the composition is free of phthalic ester plasticizers.

Claim 14 (new): The composition according to claim 12, wherein, the weight ratio of (i) to (ii) is within the range 65:35 to 55:45.

Claim 15 (new): The composition according to claim 12, wherein, the composition consists of (i) and (ii) as plasticizing agents.

Claim 16 (new): A method of plasticizing a nitrocellulose containing resin composition which comprises: incorporating into the resin composition a plasticizing amount of a plasticizer composition comprising: (i) at least one ester of a fatty acid with 8 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically

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unsaturated, linear or branched and contains at least one epoxy group per molecule and (ii) at least one methyl ester of a fatty acid with 16 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically unsaturated, linear or branched.

Claim 17 (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein, the composition is free of phthalic ester plasticizers.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein, the weight ratio of (i) to (ii) is from 65:35 to 55:45.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein, the plasticizer composition consists of (i) and (ii) as plasticizing agents.

Claim 20 (new): A nitrocellulose based paint comprising (a) 100 parts by weight of at least one nitrocellulose resin , (b) 100 to 200 parts by weight of an alkyd resin and (c) 0.1 to 30 parts of a plasticizer composition comprising (i) at least one isobutanol ester of a fatty acid with 8 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically unsaturated, linear or branched and contains at least one epoxy group per molecule and (ii) at least one methyl ester of a fatty acid with 16 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein, the fatty acid can be saturated or olefinically unsaturated, linear or branched.

Claim 21 (new): The nitrocellulose based paint according to claim 20, wherein, the paint is free of phthalic ester plasticizers.

Claim 22 (new): The nitrocellulose based paint according to claim 20, wherein, the plasticizer composition consists of (i) and (ii) as plasticizing agents.

Claim 23 (new): The composition according to claim 13, wherein, the weight ratio

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of (i) to (ii) is within the range 65:35 to 55:45.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein, the weight ratio of (i) to (ii) is from 65:35 to 55:45.